

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SSM-05 IO-11 SAM-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SCCT-01 AID-05 /092 W

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R 151309Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 614

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 1866

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, JO

SUBJECT: IDF BRIEFING ON WEST BANK DISTURBANCES

REF: JERUSALEM 0347

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE DISTRIBUTED BY
IDF SPOKESMAN'S OFFICE MARCH 14 IN CONNECTION WITH
BRIEFING ON WEST BANK DISTURBANCES.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SITUATION IN ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES.
IN THE PAST, TOO, THERE HAVE BEEN TIMES OF UNREST IN THE
ADMINISTERED AREAS. A NEW SITUATION--OBJECTIVE AND SUB-
JECTIVE--WAS CREATED DUE TO DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE
YOM KIPPUR WAR. THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION BECAME A MORE
HEATED ISSUE, WITH THE PLO ENJOYING POLITICAL SUCCESSES
ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE AT THE RABAT CONFERENCE.
WHEREAS BEFORE THE YOM KIPPUR WAR THE ARABS IN THE
ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES SPOKE OF A "CONSTRUCTIVE
RETAINING OF (THEIR POSITION" WHILST COOPERATING WITH
THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT, AFTER THE WAR THEY FELT THAT
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THEY WERE BEING SUBJECTED TO A DETERMINISTIC PROCESS

WITH CHANGES IN THE OFFING.

3. IMMEDIATE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE AGITATION.

A. THE PRAYERS ON TEPLE MOUNT.

B. SETTLEMENT IN QADOUM.

C. THE APPROACHING DATE OF THEELECTIONS (APRIL 12).

THIS TIME, CONTRARY TO 1972, THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN A DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE, WITH BOTH THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THE PLO (THE REJECTION FRONT EXCLUDED) IN FACT ADOPTING A POSITIVE STANCE AND CALLING ON THE VOTERS TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART. ALTHOUGH SOME MUNICIPAL COUNCILS IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES HAVE RESIGNED (ABLUS, RAMALLAH, EL BIREH, BEIR ZEIT), THEY CONTINUE TO OPERATE, WITH THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUING TO FUNCTION INDIVIDUALLY.

4. NO DISTINCT GUIDING HAND IS DISCERNIBLE BEHIND WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES, BUT VARIOUS ELEMENTS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES ARE GIVING WIDE-SPREAD COVERAGE TO EVENTS, CALLING DIRECTLY ON THE RESIDENTS OF THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES. JORDANIAN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA FAN THE FLAMES WHERE THE TEMPLE MOUNT IS CONCERNED. END TEXT.
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